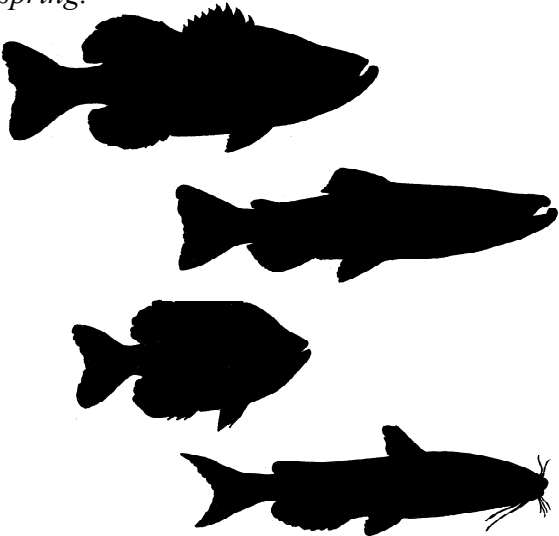


Welcome to Potato Creek State Park. This brochure is designed to familiarize you with the most common fish found in Worster Lake.

Potato Creek contains a wide variety of fish. Largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, and channel catfish were stocked in the Lake in the spring of 1977 before the park opened to the public. Rainbow trout are stocked each spring.

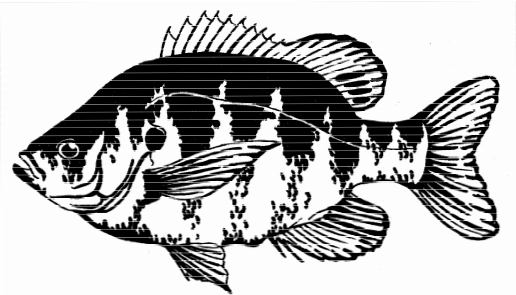


Fishing Tips
Worster Lake is best fished for largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, and rainbow trout.

A largemouth bass must be a minimum of 14 inches long to keep.

Only electric trolling motors are allowed on the lake.

Normal State fishing regulations apply. Licenses may be purchased at the Potato Creek State Park main office.



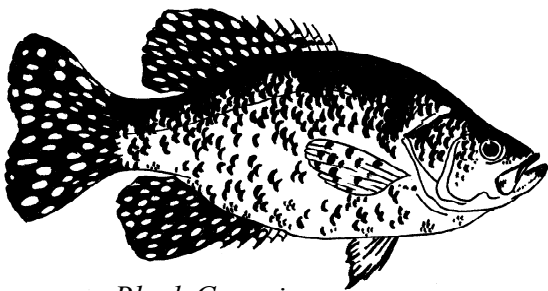
Bluegill

Bluegill
The bluegill is the most popular pan fish in Worster Lake. The basic body color ranges from yellow to dark blue. Along the sides of the body are 6-8 vertical, irregular bars. They often have a large black spot at the rear of the dorsal fin. The ear flap is dark to the edge. Bluegill prefer weedy waters where they can hide and feed. Its food consists of insects, crustaceans, and some vegetation.

Pumpkinseed
The pumpkinseed is identified by the bright red or orange spot on the tip of the gill cover. Pumpkinseeds often have orange and blue stripes on their cheeks. They inhabit vegetated waters of lakes and ponds, using weeds, docks, and logs for cover. They feed on small mollusks, insects, and other fish.

Redear Sunfish
The redear is distinguished by the bright red spot around the edge of the ear flap. It depends largely on mollusks for food. The highly developed grinding teeth, used for crushing snails, give the redear its other name, the 'shell cracker'.

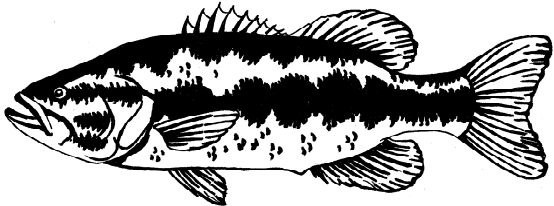
Green Sunfish
The green sunfish is a short, stocky sunfish. The heavy lips and large mouth, that extends beyond the front of the eye, help to distinguish the green sunfish from other species. They have a black spot on the rear of the dorsal and anal fins. Often found near vegetation, they feed on insects, small fish, and crustaceans.



Black Crappie

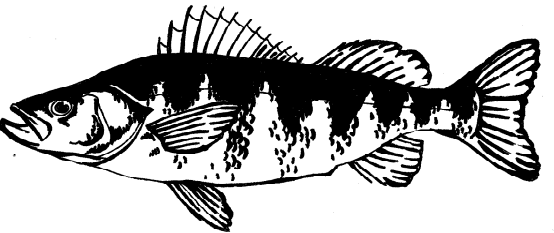
Black Crappie
The black crappie prefers quiet waters and seeks vegetated areas. It has an indented forehead and protruding lower jaw. The black crappie has 7-8 dorsal spines. It is strictly carnivorous, feeding on small fish and crustaceans.

Warmouth
The warmouth, or 'goggle-eyed perch', has dark red-brown lines radiating from the back of its red eyes. Its body is slender and olive-gray color. The warmouth has small spots on the dorsal and anal fins. They prefer dense weed beds and soft lake beds. Their diet consists mainly of crayfish, aquatic insect larvae and other fish.



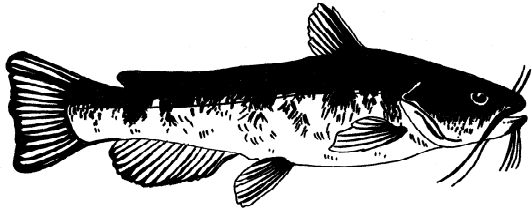
Largemouth Bass

Largemouth Bass
The largemouth bass is the area's most popular game fish. Commonly found in sluggish streams, ponds, and lakes, it can be identified by its very large mouth and upper jaw which extends well past the eye. Olive to black on its back with an irregular dark stripe from the gill to the tail. It preys upon insects, crayfish, frogs, and smaller fish.



Yellow Perch

Yellow Perch
The yellow perch is considered one of the tastiest fish in the area. Found in deep water during the day and coming to shallow waters at night. Characterized by the 6-9 dark bars down the sides (often called "saddles"). Perch feed upon insects, crayfish, and small fish.



Bullhead

Yellow Bullhead

Bullheads are in the catfish family, named because of the 'chin whiskers' or barbels. The yellow bullhead is a small species of catfish. It has a rounded tail and light colored chin whiskers. The body has no spots and is scaleless. They are most abundant in sluggish streams and the shallow parts of lakes.

Black Bullhead

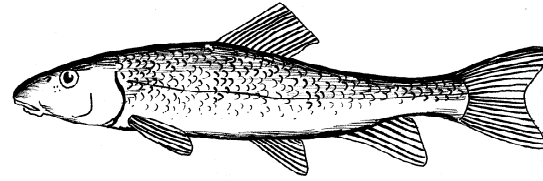
The black bullhead can be distinguished, from the yellow and brown bullhead, by the dark brown or black chin whiskers. The body is chubby, black to dark green above and yellow-white underneath. The bullheads diet consists mainly of insects, small fish, and mollusks.

Brown Bullhead

The brown and black bullheads are very similar. However, the brown bullhead has dark spots on its slender body. The color of the body is yellowish brown above with a whitish underbelly. Insect larvae and mollusks are a major part of their diet. Bullheads feed mainly at night, feeling for their prey with their chin whiskers.

Channel Catfish

The channel catfish can be identified by its long barbels (whiskers) and deeply forked tail fin. They inhabit lakes and large rivers. The catfish prefers to hunt at night for clams, crustaceans, and insect larvae, using their whiskers to find potential prey.



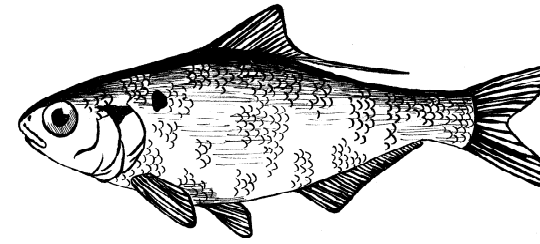
White Sucker

White Sucker

This common sucker has an olive-brown, cylindrical body. It likes dense weed beds. Suckers inhabit large streams, lakes, and fast waters. They feed on insect larvae, crustaceans, mollusks and algae, particularly those found on the lake bed.

PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN FISHING

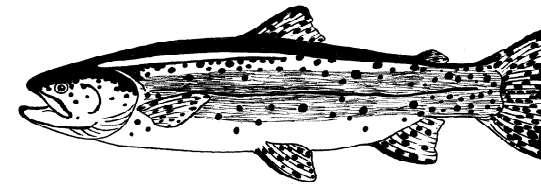
Do not throw old fishing line or trash into or on the shores of the lake. Fishing line can entangle and kill aquatic animals and birds. Also, remember the carry-in, carry-out policy of the park, please take your trash home with you.



Gizzard Shad

Gizzard Shad

The gizzard shad's most distinguishable feature is its long whiplike last dorsal ray. Its body is silvery-blue above fading to white underneath. Shad feed by straining small organisms, plant materials and organic debris through their gillrakers. Shad have been illegally introduced into Worster Lake. This non-native fish out competes other juvenile game fish for food, so their population has to be controlled to maintain a natural balance between the native fish.

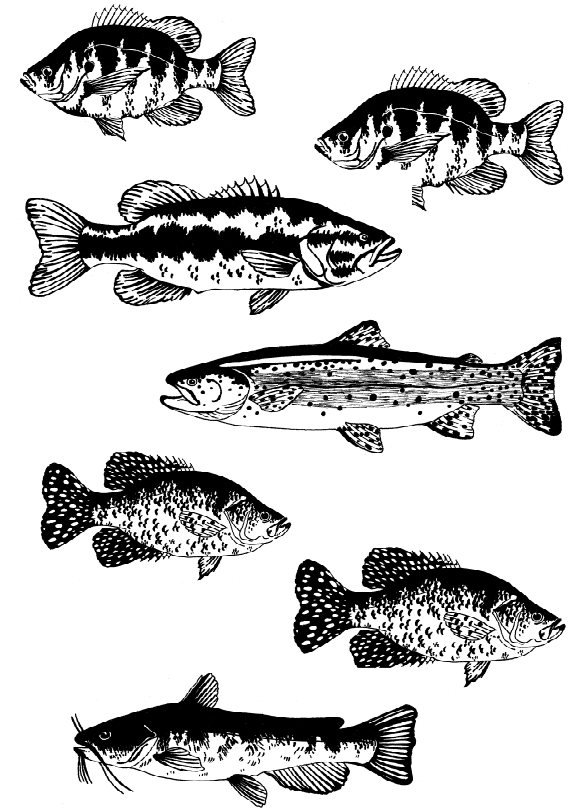


Rainbow Trout

Rainbow Trout

The body and fins of the rainbow trout are covered with small irregular black spots. Their color is highly variable, but they usually have a pink or red stripe along their side. They feed on a variety of insects, worms, minnows, mollusks, and crustaceans. Trout prefer the headwaters of dams or other cool flowing water.

Fish of Worster Lake



Interpretive Services Potato Creek State Park

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